

The Semi-Weekly Messenger.

VOL. XXX. NO. 77.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1897.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

IN THE HANDS OF THE JURY

CLOSING SCENES IN A FAMOUS MURDER TRIAL

In the Andersen Murder Trial the case is closed and the jury have retired to make up their verdict. Judge charges the jury that it is their duty to find the facts and to apply the law. The defendant's attorney interrupts the speech of the district attorney.

Norfolk, Va., December 22.—The third day of the trial of John Andersen in the federal court upon the charge of murdering Matt Saunders, of the schooner Olive Pecker, sees the evidence all in and argument completed. The case went to the jury at 5:30 o'clock and court adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow. The general impression is that a verdict will be reached in a comparatively short time and that the verdict will be guilty as charged in the indictment, though whether the jury will avail itself of the privilege affixing the "without capital punishment" clause, cannot be predicted. Of course there is a possibility of an acquittal, but this is considered extremely remote. Under the ruling of the court the jury must either find Andersen guilty, as charged in the indictment or not guilty. There can be no verdict of manslaughter.

The prisoner was dramatic to the last and just before the district attorney concluded his closing argument and telling the jury that if Andersen had been innocent he would have adopted another course, the accused man sprang to his feet, saying, "I am innocent, Mr. White," and had to be forcibly pulled back into his chair by the court bailiff.

The morning was consumed in the hearing of argument on instructions. The district attorney contending that there was no evidence whatever to justify the plea of self-defense, therefore the element of manslaughter must be eliminated from the case; the defense claiming that the court in its charge should instruct the jury to consider the hypothesis of manslaughter as well as murder. Judge Goff charged the jury at some length and with great fairness, instructing them that if they should find the prisoner guilty nothing had been introduced to lessen the grade of the crime and the verdict must be guilty as charged in the indictment. If the jury should discover any rational hypothesis whereby they could, with the evidence before them, find an excuse for the crime, the verdict must be acquittal.

Argument was begun at 2 o'clock. District Attorney White speaking for an hour and a half in opening. In his argument he emphasized the claim that the government had proved its case by the testimony of the prisoner himself. He ridiculed the idea of the crime having been committed in self-defense, saying that a burglar might as well make the same claim should he shoot a man who was trying to obstruct his entrance to a house.

Mr. McIntosh spoke for the defense only three-quarters of an hour. He commented upon the failure of the government to prove a motive for the murder, saying the only motive there could have been was self-defense. The government's witnesses, he said, in trying to swear to the facts of the case had made a scape goat of the cook. He argued that when Andersen went forward after killing the captain, it was not with the intention of killing the mate. The man seeing the mate approaching him with a deadly weapon in his hand, about to make an assault, the only recourse open to the defendant was to take the mate's life to save his own. He laid great stress upon the mate's reply to Andersen when asked for protection, that he would be killed anyhow and returned to it time and again, as language calculated to put the prisoner in fear that the mate intended to kill him or do him bodily harm. He spoke forty minutes.

District Attorney White, in closing his argument, discussed the theory of the defense. He arraigned the prisoner with scathing invective.

Quarantine Against Splenic Fever

Washington, December 21.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has issued a circular to railroads and transportation companies notifying them that a contagious and infectious disease known as splenic, or southern fever, exists among cattle in the region south of a line beginning at the northwest corner of California, thence east, south and southeasterly along the boundary of California, southerly along the western line of Arizona, thence along the southern boundaries of Arizona and New Mexico, northerly to Colorado, along the southern border of Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Tennessee and Virginia and along the northern boundary of Virginia to the Atlantic ocean. From January 15th to November 15th of each year, no cattle are to be transported from south of this line to any portion of the United States; north of the line except by rail or boat for immediate slaughter. In the course of transportation they shall be fed and watered separately from other cattle and reach their destination, before slaughter, shall be isolated. Cars carrying such cattle shall be placarded. All cars, pens, etc., in which these cattle have been, shall be disinfected.

Notice is also given that cattle infected with southern splenic fever disseminate Texas fever and when originating outside the district mentioned shall be considered and treated as infectious cattle.

The above is the general quarantine line fixed by the agricultural department, but by special order Secretary Wilson has accepted the quarantine lines for California, Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina fixed by those states and they are adopted by the department for the period beginning January 15, 1898 and ending November 15, 1898.

TREASURER WORTH

Adm't Having Had Knowledge of the Unsound Condition of the Bank at Morgan ton Long Before It Failed

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., December 22.—Treasurer Worth, in an interview today said: "I knew the Piedmont bank at Morganton was shaky a long time before it failed and I sent \$5,000 to my deputy treasurer, but I did not let him put it in the bank until the latter had given me \$10,000 of electric light stock. I thought the bank was all right, save that it was running too short of cash, and I told its officers they must get more cash. They said they had gotten almost \$15,000. The law requires that even if I know a bank is shaky, or even if I apply for a receiver, there must be thirty day's notice to the bank."

F. L. Shaw, for twenty-five years foreman of the Carolina Central railway shops at Laurinburg, died here today, aged 64.

The United States supreme court postpones until February 21st the hearing of the case involving the constitutionality of the tonnage tax on fertilizers.

Invalid County Municipal Bonds

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., December 22.—A gentleman here who has for years dealt in bonds says the supreme court decision as to Stanley county bonds will doubtless vitiate numbers of county and some town bonds, and that \$5,000 of Wilkes county bonds brought here today to be sold could not be disposed of.

Ex-Chief Justice Shepperd, who was interviewed about this matter, says this decision follows that of two years ago by the supreme court in the case of the Union bank of Richmond, against the town of Oxford, and that any bonds issued under acts where the legislative journals do not show the vote by yeas and nays on three different days are invalid.

Preparations for Relief of the Klondykers

Washington, December 22.—Captain Brainard, of the subsistence department of the army, arrived in Washington this morning. Although Secretary Alger is confined to his home by a severe cold, he sent immediately for the officer and had a conference with him respecting the execution of his plans for the relief of the miners in the Yukon country.

[Nothing has been heard from Mr. Kjellmann, the reindeer herder, now in Lapland, in answer to the direction of Secretary Alger respecting the selection of 600 reindeer for transportation for Alaska so Dr. Jackson has been made a special agent of the war department and ordered to proceed with all diligence to Lapland to buy the animals and arrange for their shipment to the United States.

The announcement that the war department is by no means committed to any one route in the effort to reach the miners in the Klondyke country has caused persons interested in various routes to advance the claims of their respective sections. The Spokane chamber of commerce has sent here Frederick R. Marvin, an energetic newspaper man of that town, as its representative to urge the superior facilities of the overland route northward from Spokane. This is the old telegraph route, laid down by the agents of the Western Union telegraph company years ago, when they sought to run a telegraph line to the Yukon. Mr. Marvin has stated to the war department that the route is still clear; that through the dense northern forests there is a trail 150 ft. broad, affording easy passage for draft animals and that the feasibility of this route in winter is shown by the fact that for years it had been traversed by numerous trappers and prospectors, while the absence of heavy grades ensures the capacity of animals to carry large loads. Secretary Alger is asked to delegate some of the army officers near Spokane to report upon the advantage of the route.

Reciprocity Negotiation With Germany

Germany

Washington, December 22.—The reciprocity negotiations between the United States and Germany are practically suspended. They never got beyond the initial stage. There appears to have been a willingness on the part of both governments to look into the subject, but the inquiry did not develop any prospects of material concessions on either side. The articles on which reciprocity "agreement" can be made are produced in France and not in Germany. The utmost extent of a reciprocity treaty between the United States and Germany, under the present law, would be 20 per cent. reduction of duty on certain agreed upon German products. Germany is chiefly concerned about sugar, but the 20 per cent. reduction in duty permitted under the Dingley law, it is said, would be of insignificant consequence. Moreover, some doubt has arisen as to whether any concessions on this article would be granted by the United States in view of the tendency toward building up the American sugar trade as against that of bounty-paying nations.

What Cured the Baby.

"Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured our baby of running sores for which we doctored her for a long time. It has relieved me of rheumatism. My wife was troubled with sick headaches and could get nothing to relieve her until she took Hood's Pills." H. L. Pickney, Lock Box 9, Ellenboro, W. Va.

HOOD'S PILLS are the only pills to take with HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA. Easy to get, easy to use.

A SMILE OF SATISFACTION

RESTS UPON THE PLACID FACE OF OUR GOVERNOR

A Tip as to Opinion of Supreme Court in Railway Commissioners Case—Aurelia Hamilton's Charge Against Jno. R. Smith, Treasurer Worth Aware Beforehand of Shaky Condition of Piedmont Bank—Sale of Western Railroad to the Southern Not Yet Completed

Messenger Bureau.

Raleigh, N. C., December 22.

When L. C. Caldwell and John H. Pearson, Governor Russell's appointees as railway commissioners, arrived here yesterday there was such a smile on their faces that people were sure they had a tip that the supreme court would sustain the court below and decide in their favor. Today they wore the same smile. And the governor smiled too, which caused a belief that he, too, had a pointer as to how the judicial cat would jump.

The board of agriculture, a member says, will meet as soon as the United States supreme court passes on the validity of the tonnage tax on fertilizers, no matter whether the decision be favorable or unfavorable.

The penitentiary directors will meet January 17th, in regular session.

Republicans here are much interested in the news from Washington that Allbright is to be postmaster and that this is another slap by Senator Pritchard of Governor Russell.

Aurelia Smith, the woman who charged Kirby Smith with the penitentiary scandal, denounces John R. Smith as a liar, because he told her correspondent that the woman had written a letter saying that in her testimony against Kirby Smith she had sworn falsely. She charges Superintendent Smith with seeking to get her to aid Kirby Smith. He says this is absolutely untrue.

An insurance agent writes the secretary of state that he knows of unlicensed companies operating in the state, but refuses to give their names, saying he fears it would injure his business. The secretary of state writes him a very caustic letter.

It is asserted that State Treasurer Worth knew before hand that the suspended Piedmont bank at Morganton was shaky.

Treasurer Worth says that in 1895 he made the ruling that the leaf tobacco warehouses were commission merchants and liable to taxation on commissions, and that the attorney general so informed him.

Governor Russell assigns Judge Brown to hold the special term of Pasquotank court, beginning January 3rd. He appoints Rev. W. C. Barrett, of Sampson county, becomes pastor of the Third Baptist church here.

Another North Carolina negro is in luck, as John H. Smyth, of Wilson, is to be minister to Liberia. A Goldsboro man once held that position.

It is no secret that Robert M. Douglas fully counts on succeeding his father-in-law, Robert P. Dick, as judge of the United States court for the Western district.

Alex. Stewart, colored, yesterday afternoon at Gomer, a village six miles from here, was killed by blows with an axe by Kirby Smith, also colored. He was after Smith with a knife. There was a quarrel about a woman.

The beautiful rolling, exposition car "North Carolina," left here today on its five-year trip.

Mrs. John P. Stedman, daughter of the late Rev. Dr. J. H. Corden, died yesterday at Oxford.

A suit was brought by the widow of Engineer James against the Western North Carolina railroad for \$15,000 damages. The Southern railway bought and owned the line. The court decided that the suit must be brought against the Southern; that the Western had no existence. The supreme court reverses the action and the Western is yet in existence and will be until the Southern takes out a license to do business in this state. The lawyer who brought the suit against the Western said he did so to keep the case out of the federal courts. The supreme court virtually declares that the Southern must take out license to make its purchase of the Western valid.

The decision of the supreme court in the case as to the constitutionality of the Stanley county bonds (\$100,000) in aid of the Balkan railway, was similar. It is said of \$20,000 to a Richmond bank and of \$8,000 to the state university.

The Baptist state Sunday school book-store is located here. The state university (colored) here will not observe the holidays by any vacation. This course is taken at the request of the students.

A telegram from Tyrrell county says white shad of large size are being caught there.

The news that the republicans and populists met at Washington to arrange for fusion in 1898 is interesting to the fusionists here. It shows that Ohio Wilson is now co-operating with the minority populists. One of them confirms this.

Yesterday the governor granted three pardons and a commutation. It is hinted that when the Seaboard Air Line gets the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley there will be a bigger rate war than ever.

Ryan, the Greensboro wife murderer who is to be hanged tomorrow, says the only thought that worries him is that he goes to heaven, while he has sent his wife to hell.

The state board of public charities adjourned this morning. Dr. Duffy, its chairman, went home and the other members went to inspect the asylum here. There are at the asylums the following insane: At Raleigh 372, Morganton 74, Goldsboro 430. At Goldsboro more room is needed. Here there will soon be room for 120 more. At Morganton there is now a nurse's training school and an infirmary ward. At the blind institution more room is needed. State Treasurer Worth has refused to pay the \$75,000 specially appropriated to this institution. There are 400 deaf mutes in the state, of whom 22 are at the Morganton school. At the Oxford orphan asylum there are now 212, and five new buildings, costing \$21,000, are occupied. At the colored orphanage there are 106.

'Big Fire and Little Insurance

Kansas City, Mo., December 21.—The Auditorium, the largest and finest play house west of Chicago, and the Auditorium hotel, one of the most fashionable family hostels in the city, were gutted by fire that started in the hotel shortly after 1 o'clock this morning. The 106 guests escaped in safety, although many were compelled to leave the building in their night clothes. The loss on the entire property is between \$200,000 and \$300,000. The total insurance amounts to but \$70,000, owing to a high insurance rate.

SITUATION IN THE EAST

Europe Anxious to Learn the Attitude of the United States—Japan Disturbed Over News from London—Russian Newspapers Ironical at Germany's Expense

Vienna, December 22.—The Deutsche Zeitung says: The United States, which from its geographical position has a greater interest in the opening up of China than all European powers together, cannot possibly consent to its partition or to division into spheres of influence without having a voice in the matter. It would be a great mistake to underestimate the strength of the United States, and a partition of China would be impossible without America's approval of the partition. The European powers will do well to give timely attention to the just aspirations and interests of the United States.

London, December 22.—The Pekin correspondent of The Times says: The Chinese are provisioning Port Arthur and will reconstruct the forts there, and a supervising and furnishing the money. In the face of this reaction China may find the Tsung-Li-Yamen has prepared an unexpected reception for intrusive guests.

The Russo-Chinese bank, which is the agent of the Russian government, has offered to China 120,000 Berdan rifles with payment five years hence. China has accepted the proposal.

According to a dispatch to The Times from Kobe, Japan, the news from Port Arthur has greatly disturbed the Japanese minister. The cabinet council has been held and the high military officials have attended.

The Japanese newspapers, the dispatch says, are non-plussed at the situation in the far east, while the military is involved in domestic troubles connected with its taxation proposals, to which the diet is hostile.

London, December 22.—Some of the Russian papers are ironical at Germany's expense. The Bourse Gazette, of Odesa, hints that by the time Prince Henry and the German squadron reach China they may find the Tsung-Li-Yamen has prepared an unexpected reception for intrusive guests.

The Murder of American Sailors in Japan

Washington, December 22.—Further details of the killing of the two American sailors attached to the United States fleet in Japan have been received here and have been brought to the attention of the department of state, which has begun an investigation. Montgomery, it appears, was killed in Yokohama September 2nd, last. He was not intoxicated but was murdered by a Japanese. The case was similar except that he was killed at Nagasaki during the present month. He had been on leave and was returning aboard ship when murdered. The testimony gathered shows that he was perfectly sober and some sailors on a passing ship hearing cries of help looked over the water in time to see him being thrown from his boat. Lacking a small boat they could not rescue him. His body was found several days later floating in the bay. The Japanese government was appealed to in each case and while some arrests have been made, the American contingent in Japan feel that the perpetrators of the murders are still at large. It is said that every Japanese boat in the harbor is obliged to register its passengers before leaving the shore so that under ordinary conditions it should be easy to find the guilty parties.

At the Japanese legation it was stated that the matter has not yet been brought to their attention. The legation officials do not regard the matter as serious.

Strongly Anti-British

St. Petersburg, December 22.—In a strongly anti-British article today The Novosti says: In consequence of the pretension of England to compensate herself for the Russian occupation of Port Arthur by the acquisition of Port Hamilton or Lazareff, and in view of the possibility of the disastrous action of Japan, Europe stands on the brink of grave diplomatic complications. It is, therefore, well to recall that the reinforcement of the British squadron in the Pacific permits Russia, France and Germany to effectively prevent a disturbance of the balance of power between the three powers on one hand and Great Britain and Japan on the other, such as might be produced by violent seizures of territory.

In conclusion The Novosti expresses the hope that the isolation of Great Britain in regard to the other European powers, will paralyze her action sufficiently to permit the preservation of peace from the dangers threatening it at the present moment.

Marital Law on the Florida Coast

Jacksonville, Fla., December 22.—A special to The Times-Union and Citizen from Key West says: Schooners leaving port last night that were accustomed to the summary methods adopted by Uncle Sam in intercepting filibusters were treated to a surprise. The battleship Maine's launch fired a shot as a command for them to halt. Not understanding the signal, they proceeded on their course, but another shot brought them to. They were boarded by the naval officers and thoroughly searched, but no arms nor ammunition were found and they were allowed to proceed. The Maine's officers are unusually alert and there must be strong ground for suspicion that a filibustering expedition is being planned, for the big battleship coasted along the islands several times during the night, putting all vessels under the inquisitive glare of her big search lights.

A Mare Sold for \$15,000

Louisville, Ky., December 22.—A special to The Evening Post from Shelbyville, Ky., says: Mr. Sam Brown today sold to Ed. H. Tipton, of Lexington, Lady Red, the dam of the 2-year-old Hamburg, for \$15,000 cash. Mr. Tipton, it is said, has the mare placed for \$20,000. Lady Red is in foal to the sire of Hamburg. The price received for her is the highest any brood mare ever brought in Shelby county.

SECRETARY GAGE

REPLIES TO RESOLUTIONS OF FEDERATION OF LABOR

He Writes a Letter to President Gompers Regarding the Action of the Federation in Denouncing His Financial Scheme—He Asks for Arguments Against, Instead of Denunciation of His Proposed Currency Reform—He Deplores Arraying One Class Against Another

Washington, December 22.—Secretary Gage has written the following letter to President Gompers of the Federation of Labor:

"I have read with care the resolutions adopted the 20th instant at Nashville by the convention of the Federation of Labor, which recite as follows:

"Resolved, That we declare ourselves most positively opposed to the Gage financial bill recently introduced in congress by the secretary of the treasury.

It is a measure that, if adopted as a law, will only the more firmly rivet the gold standard on the people of the country and perpetuate its disastrous effects in every form.

"Resolved, That we pronounce the Gage bill an undisguised effort to retire our greenback currency and all government paper money, with a view to the substitution of national bank notes in their stead and thus fasten the national bank system for years upon the American people."

"Now if it be true that the gold standard—by which things have been measured as to price for the last sixty years in this country—is inimical to the interests of the laboring classes of the United States, then I think it is inimical to all classes. In other words, I do not believe that the exploitation of one class by another, either through false weights, partial laws or a bad monetary system, can be made to work for the permanent benefit of the exploiting class itself, or for the general weal, even were it defensible on any ground of right or justice, which it is not. Granted, therefore, that the permanence of the gold standard (for which I argue) operates in this evil direction, then your resolutions of condemnation are well founded and I am justly charged, either with an ignorance which constitutes me a foolish adviser or with the perversity of motive which makes me an evil adviser."

"I have a right to disavow the charge of perversity or evil purpose since there is nothing in my whole life as related to my fellowmen, either in word or deed, from which the possession by me of such characteristics can be inferred, much less demonstrated.

"But ignorance of the consequences of works as deep injury as evil intent might do, and to this sin of ignorance (if it be a sin), I must confess myself to be a possible victim. This confession, however, ought not to classify me as separate from my fellow men generally, whether they be considered as individual units or as congregated in groups. Ignorance is a relative, not an absolute term, since few are totally ignorant and none is absolutely wise. Nor does the number constituting the group change this fact, since the wisdom of a group, however large, cannot be greater than that of the wisest man in it.

"This remains true whether the subject matter involving knowledge and judgment be astronomy, physics or finance. The condemnation then involved in the resolutions referred to is measured by the just or imperfect apprehension of questions relating to monetary science held by the wisest man who supported them."

"Laying these general considerations aside, let me say to you, and through you to the great body you so honorably represent, that if instead of denunciatory resolutions, which are not argument, you or any one on your behalf will show that the views I entertain and advocate are other than salutary to the great economic body of which we are independent members, I will abandon them without hesitation. My present conviction, the honest fruit of sincere study and reflection, is that a break down in our present money standard would be a most disastrous blow to all our commercial and industrial interests, and that upon the wage workers, as a class, would be entailed the most serious effects of the disaster. Believing this, I must so bear witness."

Spaniards in Cuba Oppose Autonomy

Havana, December 21.—At today's meeting of the conservative party, over 300 delegates, said to represent 80 per cent. of the wealth of the island, being present, several of the speakers insisted that the president, the Marquis of Apeztegui, should explain his conduct and utterances as published in the newspapers of Madrid. The marquis, in a speech of two hours' duration, satisfactorily explained matters and denied the accuracy of the news published in Madrid. In all twenty-seven speeches were made against autonomy, all the speakers agreeing that autonomy will not bring peace to the island, as proved by the protests of the members of the Cuban junta of New York and the recent death of Lieutenant Colonel Ruiz and five other Spanish commissioners who have been killed by the insurgents.

Senator Guzman submitted a motion which was unanimously approved expressing confidence in President Apeztegui and the executive committee and confirming the political platform of the party, which is essentially Spanish and for centralism as against home rule.

The executive was further authorized to cable a message to General Weyler, the substance of which was that at a mass meeting of the reunited union constitutional party, the policy of his excellency was endorsed and the party assured the general that he had its support.

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Sounding Our Government as to the Chinese Question

Washington, December 22.—It is understood that the authorities here have been officially sounded as to the attitude of the United States toward the complications in the far east, with a view of learning whether American interests in China were threatened as sufficient to warrant any active steps by this government. From what source the inquiries have come is not disclosed. If from Great Britain it must have come through Colonel Hay, the American ambassador at London, as the British officials here have received no instructions as to the Chinese situation. It is well understood, however, that Great Britain would look with favor on any active step by the United States which would serve as a check for the advances of Germany and Russia. The British interests in China are ten times greater than those of Germany, Russia and the United States and yet, with Germany and Russia firmly located on Chinese soil, Great Britain is left in sort of cul-de-sac. It is known also that the Chinese authorities would welcome a movement by the United States and that this has been communicated to officials here. Although these soundings, for they amount to nothing more as yet, have not taken official form, they have been sufficient to gain a pretty general understanding as to the attitude of this government. This, in brief, is that the United States has no interest in the territorial extension now going on in China; that she will not land at any of the coast ports of China, as Germany and Russia have done; and that her only concern is to guard established American interests in China.

Our Revenue Cutter Service

Washington, December 21.—Captain C. F. Shoemaker, chief of the revenue cutter service in his annual report says that of the thirty seven vessels in the service two years ago there were thirteen old wooden hulls, fourteen of iron, three of steel and one of iron, wooden sheathed. It is asserted that no class of seamen has been compelled to go to sea, since the general introduction of steam motive power for marine purposes, in such a type of water craft as, for the most part, comprise the revenue cutter service. As conditions now obtain and must continue until the old vessels are replaced with better, when one of them is ordered upon a cruise of six weeks or two months duration, it becomes necessary to load it far beyond the danger point so that when it puts to sea the decks are fairly awash. This has been the case for years and, with the old type of vessels comprised in the list given, is the case today. And yet, handicapped as it has always been, in the manner shown, the service has never in its history failed to promptly respond and to efficiently meet every call that has been made upon it; but with what difficulties it has had to contend, what dangers it has encountered in the discharge of its onerous work none but those intimately associated with it can possibly know. No one of competent judgment will be found who will say that the vessels of the service have at any time within twenty years been calculated for, or fit to perform, the duty put on them.

Within the last three years, congress has authorized the building of seven new vessels, four of which have been completed and are in all particulars swift modern vessels and in every way suited to the service. Authority is asked for the construction of five cruisers to take the place of some of the old wooden vessels now almost past repairing.

Civil Service Discussed by the Cabinet

Washington, December 21.—Today's cabinet meeting was devoted almost entirely to a discussion of the operations of the civil service law. The resolution adopted by the senate last Friday calling upon the executive heads of the several departments of the government for information concerning the application of the civil service law to their departments and for an expression of their opinions as to what, if any, modifications ought to be made in it was the subject directly under discussion. While the system was pretty thoroughly discussed, it can be said upon the authority of three members of the cabinet that no definite policy was outlined beyond a determination to maintain the principles of the civil service.

Japan no Longer Opposes Hawaiian Annexation

Washington, December 22.—Minister Hoshi, of Japan, was in conference with Secretary Sherman at the state department today. The status of the Hawaiian negotiations has changed materially since the minister's return from Japan. There is no further protest on the part of the Japanese government to the annexation of the islands and, indeed, it is asserted that Japan's policy never went to the extent of a positive protest. In any event that branch of the question is considered closed and the present purpose of the Japanese authorities is to secure specific assurances from the United States that, in case Hawaii is annexed, Japanese interests will be fully protected.